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Identical letters dated 28 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith the following:

On Sunday 26 October 2008, at 1645 hours, four American helicopters entering from Iraq violated Syrian airspace, flying eight kilometres inside the Syrian Arab Republic to the Sukkariyah farm at Abu Kamal. They targeted a civilian building, firing on those working inside the building. As a result, one person was injured and the following eight Syrian citizens lost their lives: Da'ud Muhammad AlAbdulla and his four children, Ahmad Khalifa and Aly Abbas AlHasan and his wife. The American helicopters then returned to Iraqi airspace.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic condemns this act of aggression, which was committed by the occupying United States forces, as an aggressive act that constitutes a grave infraction of Syrian sovereignty and a violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which provides that all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

The Syrian Arab Republic also demands that the Government of Iraq should carry out a full investigation into the goals and background of that attack, shoulder its responsibility to prevent any repetition of the use of its territory to launch attacks that are in contravention of the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Charter of the United Nations and international law and honour the mechanisms that were agreed bilaterally by the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq and in the framework of meetings between neighbouring countries.

In this context, we refer to the fact that this unjustified act of aggression comes at a time when the United States and Iraqi sides have both acknowledged the enormous efforts that have been exerted by the Syrian Arab Republic to maintain the security of Iraq and prevent any illegal infiltration into its territory. This act of aggression carried out by United States forces in Iraq against innocent Syrian civilians within Syrian territory indicates that the current United States administration is determined to pursue the policy that has brought only death and destruction to the region and succeeded only in escalating tension and spreading instability and anarchy throughout the area.

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The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in bringing attention to this flagrant act of aggression, expects the Security Council and the States Members of the United Nations to assume their responsibility to prevent any repetition of this grave violation and to hold the aggressor accountable for the killing of innocent Syrian citizens, with a view to maintaining security and stability in the Middle East.

I should be grateful if you would have these letters circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative